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A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

[https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles\\_churchman\\_os.php](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php)

## The Month.

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### BRITISH-AMERICAN ARBITRATION TREATY.

THE year 1896 opened with such a combination of events as seemed certain to involve Great Britain in serious warfare. There were political disturbances within, and grave dangers without. On all sides the outcry was raised against her, and rather increased as the months of spring passed. Every great nation seemed to take the occasion of fomenting a grievance, and she appeared to stand alone against the world. But, in the providence of God, the storm of opposing clamour slowly lessened as the progress of time and events softened the rancour, bringing the difficulties into clearer light, and so to more easy solution.

This new year of 1897 begins with an event which every lover of humanity will fain wish prophetic. On January 11 a treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States was signed shortly after noon by Mr. Secretary Olney and by our Ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote. The essential parts of the treaty are that for five years from the date of ratification a Court of Arbitration, consisting of three members from the Judiciary of the United States and three from the Judiciary of the United Kingdom, nominated respectively by the President and Prime Minister of the contracting nations, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over differences between the two nations, no question involving national honour being submitted for arbitration. To avoid a tie-vote, King Oscar of Sweden has consented to act as final umpire either personally or by deputy.

When it is remembered that not twelve months ago the fever of war ran high in the veins of our Transatlantic kinsmen, and that certain European nations gazed with ill-suppressed glee, and even endeavoured to incite conflict by adding to our difficulties, too great thankfulness cannot be felt that aspirations for peace and expressions of goodwill begin to pass freely now from both sides. In America the feeling seems not only enthusiastic, but deep. The preservation of the pen used to sign the treaty, the inauguration of a peace carnival, the striking of gold and silver medals, the preparations for street processions and for oratory, are not, we believe, the meaningless exuberance of a fickle and excitement-loving people, but the expression of a noble sentiment which is permeating the national spirit, the effects of which will be felt for good during many years to come. And in our quieter English manner we welcome this treaty with the earnest desire that this occurrence, opening with happy auspices the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Victoria, may be a bright precedent of still clearer understandings and more cordial contacts for mutual benefit and progress.

### ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' SALARIES.

An instructive lesson in figures has been given to the London School Board by the Strand Board of Works, which should prove of salutary value in more than one direction. Some severe things are said, as the following paragraph will show: "The London School Board has given a fictitious value to the services of the teachers in elementary schools. Ten thousand seven hundred and three teachers cost £1,210,000 per annum. Consider what this means. This number of teachers is made up of headmasters, head-mistresses, assistants, male and female, ex-pupil teachers and probationers; *i.e.*, taking into consideration all engaged in teaching, some of whom are only children, we have an average salary of £113 1s. 0½d. The report of the Committee of the Council on Education says: 'We

may mention with regard to the principal teachers in the Metropolitan district that in the past year the average salary of 355 masters in Voluntary schools was £154 15s. 5d., and that of 420 masters in Board schools was £290 os. 11d.; while 826 schoolmistresses in Board schools enjoyed an average income of £205 17s. 4d., as compared with £93 os. 7d., that of 778 teachers in Voluntary schools. The salaries of 7 masters in Voluntary schools and of 213 in Board schools amounted to £300 a year and upwards, while 3 schoolmistresses in Voluntary and 495 in Board schools had salaries of £200 and upwards.”

The stricture that the London School Board, tested by results, is the most extravagant in the country, will appeal to different people differently. We do not wish anyone to be underpaid, but half a million of money in salaries is a rather conspicuous sum to lay as a charge of extravagance against a public body—so large, in fact, as to warrant at least the suspicion that there is something in the criticism.

#### THE OLD CATHOLICS.

The Anglo-Continental Society has issued its forty-second report, containing a summary of the advance made by the Old Catholic movement on the Continent. The details given are full of real importance, for the movement manifests both life and growth. There are branches of the organization in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, and Holland. The Old Catholics steadily continue to increase in numbers, in spite of Ultramontane predominance which manifests itself by constant unfriendliness, and frequently by formidable and open opposition. Vienna has been chosen as the locality for the International Old Catholic Congress, which will be held in the autumn of 1897.

Coming to particulars, it is gratifying to know that the French Old Catholic Congregation in Paris, over which the Archbishop of Utrecht holds jurisdiction, is making steady progress. In Germany the death of Bishop Reinkens brought to a point the important question of the future relation of his successor to the State. It remained to be seen whether the Prussian Government would continue to him the status of a Catholic Bishop, together with the grant of £2,400 a year for his support. Happily both privileges were confirmed, though the Centre Party in the German Parliament endeavoured to prevent the subsidy, in opposition to the Minister of Public Worship. The German Emperor himself sent his congratulations to Bishop Weber upon his election by no less than forty-three clergy and eighty-five lay representatives, making a total of one hundred and twenty-eight electors, as compared with the seventy-seven who elected Bishop Reinkens.

Austria has still no Old Catholic Bishop, but it is almost certain that the present diocesan administrator, Pfarrer Cech, will be chosen by the electors when the Austrian Government has given the necessary assent. In Italy the work progresses both in towns and villages. The village of S. Vito, with a population of 500, has almost entirely joined the reform movement. Count Campello still labours with signal success, but the extreme poverty of Italy prevents any rapid growth in the fund for an Italian Old Catholic bishopric. Bishop Hertzog holds a strong position in Switzerland. Bishop Cabrera finds the work in Spain growing sufficiently to warrant his holding an annual visitation. In Portugal there are five clergy, one lay reader, one licensed preacher, seven congregations, twelve schools, four schoolmasters, ten schoolmistresses, and 700 schoolchildren.

The report expresses deep regret at the deaths of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and of the Archbishop Nicephorus Kalogeras of Patras, the latter having especially helped forward the movement by most active assistance.

## THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE BOG-SLIP.

The close of the old year in the British Isles was marked by the occurrence of two alarming and, happily, unusual phenomena. In the early morning of December 17 the western side of the island quivered with some tremendous vibration, which rapidly distributed itself throughout Wales and the Midlands as far as London. The disturbance was of the nature of an earthquake, and was possibly the last wave of a more serious seismic shock in Iceland, or beneath the earth's surface. The few moments of tremor were sufficient to cause widespread amazement, and even alarm. There was little real damage done, except at Hereford, where the cathedral was badly shaken, and the pinnacles of St. Nicholas' Church fell to the ground.

Again, in the dark morning hours of December 28, in the neighbourhood of Killarney, a great tract of marshy land, some 200 acres in extent, and said to be thirty feet deep in parts, called Boghaghanima, or "The Bog of the Mule," began to move rapidly down the valley, burying and sweeping away a farm and eight human beings in its course. The catastrophe seems to have been immediately caused by an unusually heavy rainfall, which swelled an underground stream, loosening the subsoil of the morass, and precipitating the whole into the river Flesk, whence it flowed into the Killarney Lakes. Arable land, crops and live stock, together with the salmon-fishing industry, have been much injured by the bog-slip. The countryside is the property of Lord Kenmare.

## ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields from its history and position is prominent among City churches. The Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary Kitto, who is a candidate for the vacant proctorship in Convocation, in a ten years' retrospect which he has just issued, gives many interesting details of change and progress within that period. While the population has fallen from 12,000 to 9,000, the ratable value of the parish has increased from £450,000 to £540,000. The interior of the church itself has been much beautified, while all the records of Church work show indication of steady growth. For instance, the number of communicants has increased from 2,665 to 3,750; offertories have grown from £640 to £900 in the current year; while the numerous parochial organizations have a large and useful activity. Situated in such a notable part of London, the waves of English life, political and social, may be said to pass its doors, from the processions of emperors and princes, to the demonstration of the unemployed. Within the decade the parish has seen growing up within its bounds those magnificent galleries, libraries, halls, theatres, and hotels, so familiar to sight-seers.

## BACCHYLIDES.

Egypt is still a treasure-heap for the manuscript-hunter. The fragile papyrus has yielded to the modern printed page in quite recent years works of Hyperides, Herodas and Aristotle, all of which are in the British Museum. Now a fourth Greek writer is exhumed from the dark of the ages. Bacchylides was a lyric poet, living in the first century B.C., a contemporary of Pindar, and held by ancient critics as not unworthy of a third place with Pindar and Simonides. The manuscript is beautifully written, and contains some twenty poems, many of them being absolutely complete. They are all lyric odes, celebrating the victories of the poet's patrons in the ancient games of Greece. The papyrus has been acquired by the British Museum.

## SIR HENRY FOWLER'S ADMISSIONS.

Sir Henry Fowler, in a speech to his constituents, has made some important admissions with reference to Voluntary schools. He says :

“Voluntary schools, I admit, are part of our national system of education. I admit that those schools have been put to a very considerably increased cost in consequence of the raising of the standard of education. I am equally willing—and I do not think there was any responsible leader of the Opposition who did not express the same view in the House—we were equally willing that these schools should have additional relief in order to enable them to meet this additional expenditure.” Sir Henry Fowler added that in his opinion all schools must be put on the same footing as regards help.

#### ISLINGTON CLERICAL MEETING.

We have never seen a larger attendance at this annual clerical conference, and papers and speeches throughout the day were generally weighty and instructive. The subject chosen was “The Mind of the Church of England on Certain Important Points as set forth in the Articles of Religion.” This was divided into the following subsections: “The main purpose and general character of the Articles; the Rule of Faith; the Sacraments; the orders and discipline of the Church; the doctrines of sin and salvation.

A correspondence has passed between the Bishop of Chester and Cardinal Vaughan, in which both appear to think that the Government mean to redeem their pledges to denominational schools at the cheapest rate possible, and utter the warning that, if this is so, it may become necessary for friends of Voluntary schools to work for a political break-up in the interests of truth and justice.

More than three thousand preachers chose the subject of Peace as a leading topic in their sermons on December 20. It is a hopeful sign of the times that, while the Governments of Europe believe it necessary to be armed to the teeth, public opinion, leavened by Christianity, not infrequently expresses its serious abhorrence of any proposal to let slip the dogs of war.

The late Primate's personal estate was valued at £35,000, or little more than two years' official income.

Mr. Gladstone has entered his eighty-eighth year. He was a Member of Parliament five years before the Queen's accession.

Dr. Temple is now duly Archbishop of Canterbury. He preached at his last ordination service in St. Paul's Cathedral on December 20. He was confirmed in Bow Church on December 22, and on the following day attended a farewell service in St. Paul's, preaching a touching and appropriate sermon. After doing homage, he was enthroned on January 8 at Canterbury, in the presence of a large and representative congregation.

The Sultan, yielding to pressure from combined European representation, has at length issued a proclamation granting an amnesty to all Armenian convicts and prisoners. The *iradé* does not cover those sentenced to death for murder.

#### GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.

An anonymous donor has presented, for the Lady Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral, two sanctuary candlesticks of black walnut, mounted in upwards of 300 ounces of pure silver.

The Misses Hume, of Lowestoft, have given, in memory of their brother, £2,300 for the building of a Missions to Seamen Church and Institute in that place.

£105 to the Curates' Augmentation Fund by the Mercers' Company.

£250 to the C.E.T.S. anonymously, "in commemoration of the first total abstinence Archbishop."

£9,000 to the Wakefield Diocesan Spiritual Aid Fund, and £9,000 to the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Education, under the will of the late Mr. Wheatley Balme.

#### TRURO CATHEDRAL.

Churchmen in the West are making strenuous efforts to complete the building scheme of Truro Cathedral. Up to the present time £115,507 has been expended; and according to the estimate of the architect, Mr. J. L. Pearson, R.A., a further sum of £71,000 will be necessary to complete the scheme, of which £10,000 will be needed for the central tower and spire. Lord Robartes has promised £2,000, spread over three years, and the Bishop £1,000 in five yearly instalments. Lord Mount Edgumbe has given £1,000 for the cathedral, and £1,000 for the Clergy Sustentation Fund. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to begin building.

#### BLUE BOOK ON EDUCATION.

The Committee of Council on Education has now issued its annual Blue Book. Some of the figures and facts are of special value at the present time. We mention a few of the larger results. The total number of children on the books in England and Wales is 5,299,469, or slightly under one in five of the population. This is an increase of 100,728 over the previous year. A very healthy sign is manifested by the fact that the average attendance has gone up by nearly 100,000, being now 4,325,000. The number of children taught in Voluntary as compared with Board Schools is shown by the following table:

Church of England	...	...	...	1,850,545
Roman Catholic	...	...	...	235,392
British Schools	...	...	...	235,151
Wesleyan	...	...	...	129,724
				<hr/>
				2,450,812
Board Schools	...	...	...	1,879,218
				<hr/>
Excess in Voluntary Schools	...	...	...	571,594

Coming to expenditure, the total cost of maintenance for the year 1895 was £9,670,090. This shows an increase of 5·71 per cent. over the sum for 1894. The most remarkable increase is that under the head of salaries, which is £393,542 in a total of £7,389,437. On miscellaneous expenses £1,675,800 were consumed, and £604,853 on books and apparatus. The sources of revenue to meet this expenditure were as follows:

Parliamentary grant	...	...	...	£4,081,280
Rates	...	...	...	1,942,716
Voluntary contributions	...	...	...	826,421

It is interesting to note the cost per scholar in average attendance in the various schools at the present time:

	s.	d.
Board Schools	19	5
British Schools	18	8½
Church Schools	18	5¼
Wesleyan Schools	18	3
Roman Catholic Schools	18	1½

Many important points will be raised from the current Blue Book. But perhaps the most noteworthy features are the increasing costliness of elementary education and the wide area and effective results reached by voluntary schools with such comparatively limited resources.

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### UNITY AND UNIFORMITY.

MAN'S IDEAL OF UNITY IS UNIFORMITY—

*John x. 16 (A.V.).* "ONE FOLD."

OUR LORD'S IDEAL OF UNIFORMITY IS UNITY—

*John x. 16 (R.V.).* "ONE FLOCK."

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### Obituary.

DECEMBER 16, at Bovey Tracey Vicarage, the Right Reverend G. W. H. KNIGHT-BRUCE, D.D., Suffragan Bishop of Exeter Diocese. Dr. Knight-Bruce was Bishop of Bloemfontein from 1886-94, and then became Bishop of Mashonaland, resigning in the next year through ill-health. He leaves a widow and four young children.

Canon W. HENDERSON, D.D., Principal of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College since 1878, to which work he had devoted the best years of his life with much appreciation and success.

Rev. HUBERT ASHTON HOLDEN, LL.D., Litt.D., a distinguished classical scholar, whose best-known work, "Foliorum Silvula," has gone through some twelve editions.

#### THE LATE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.

The Right Reverend BASIL JONES, D.D., Lord Bishop of St. David's, died at Abergwili Palace on January 14 of heart disease, from which he had long suffered. Born in 1822, he was educated at Shrewsbury and Trinity College, Oxford, and gained the Ireland University Scholarship in 1842, and a second class in Lit. Hum. two years later. On becoming Michell Fellow of Queen's College, he began a lifelong friendship with the late Archbishop Thomson. Afterwards he accepted a Fellowship at University College, and became subsequently an examining chaplain to Dr. Thomson at York, Vicar of Haxby, of Bishopthorpe, Archdeacon of York in 1867, and Chancellor of the Diocese in 1871. Three years after, on the resignation of Bishop Thirlwall, he was recommended to the Queen by Mr. Gladstone as Bishop of St. David's. During his episcopate he has dealt with the problems of his difficult and scattered diocese with singular wisdom, moderation, shrewdness, and success. The charge of absentee clergy, once justly urged, is now no longer heard. Amid the fierce disputes concerning the School Boards, the Burials Bill, Tithes, and Disestablishment, he has maintained a temperate and wise position. He did much for Lampeter and Brecon Colleges. In his Oxford days he published much excellent classical work. The Bishop was twice married, and leaves a son and two daughters, quite young children.